

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/975,532

Examiner

James A. Reagan

Applicant(s)

OGG ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the response filed on 05 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in reply to the response filed on 05 June 2006.
2. Claims 1-44 are currently pending and have been examined.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-44 are allowed. See Reasons for Allowance under separate heading.

Reasons For Allowance

4. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1, the prior art fails to show a method for printing postage, including receiving a label stock having a set of labels each having a pre-printed serial number, each pre-printed serial number related to a single master serial number that identifies the label stock; receiving a postage request; generating an indicium in accordance with the master serial number, pre-printed serial number, and the postage request, the indicium including an indicator verifying a match with the pre-printed serial number; and printing the postage using the indicium and the label stock in the manner and complexity recited by the claims.

Regarding independent claim 13, the prior art fails to show a data processing system adapted to print postage, including a processor; and a memory operably coupled to the Processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable execute the program instructions, the program instructions including: receiving a label stock pre-printed serial

number, the pre-printed serial number including a master serial number; receiving a postage request; generating an indicium in accordance with the master serial number, pre-printed serial number, and the postage request, the indicium providing a visual verification of a match with the pre-printed serial number; and printing the postage using the indicium and the label stock in the manner and complexity recited by the claims.

Regarding independent claim 25, the prior art fails to show a method for printing postage, including receiving a label stock with at least one pre-printed serial number on a label, the pre-printed serial number related to a master serial number of the label stock, the label stock including printing in color-changing ink, labels cut with a special die, micro-printing, and a watermark; receiving a postage request; generating an indicium in accordance with the master serial number, pre-printed serial number, and the postage request, the indicium providing means for verifying the validity of the postage; and printing the postage using the indicium and label stock in the manner and complexity recited by the claims.

Regarding independent claim 32 the prior art fails to show a method for printing postage, including receiving a label stock comprising a first label with a pre-printed serial number; receiving a postage request; generating an indicium accordance with the pre-printed serial number and the postage request; printing the postage using the indicium and the first label, the indicium providing means for verifying the validity of the postage; tracking the use of the pre-printed serial number; and rejecting a subsequent postage request for a second label with the pre-printed serial number in the manner and complexity recited by the claims.

Regarding independent claim 38 the prior art fails to show a method for printing postage, including receiving a label stock comprising a first label with a pre-printed serial number; receiving a postage request; generating an indicium accordance with the pre-printed serial number and the postage request; printing the postage using the indicium and the first label, the indicium providing

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means for verifying the validity of the postage; tracking the use of the pre-printed serial number/ and rejecting a subsequent postage request for a second label with the pre-printed serial number in the manner and complexity recited by the claims.

Regarding independent claim 40 the prior art fails to show a method for printing postage, including receiving a pre-printed serial number for label stock cut with a special die; receiving a postage request; generating an indicium in accordance with the pre-printed serial number and the postage request; printing the postage using the indicium and the label stock; tracking the use of the pre-printed serial number; and blocking subsequent use of the pre-printed serial number in the manner and complexity recited by the claims.

Regarding independent claim 41, the prior art fails to show a method for generating a display in a user interface for printing postage, including receiving a label stock type for a label stock, the label stock including a plurality of sequenced labels; receiving a label starting sequence number for a label from the plurality of sequenced labels; and generating a label stock display using the label stock type and label starting sequence number, the label stock display providing means for verifying the validity of the postage in relation to the label starting sequence number in the manner and complexity recited by the claims. While the elements are separately known in the prior art, the combination is novel.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to **James A. Reagan** whose telephone number is **571.272.6710**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at **571.272.6712**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair> . Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866.217.9197** (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

571-273-8300 [Official communications, After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

571-273-8300 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the **United States Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window:**

Randolph Building

401 Dulany Street

Alexandria, VA 22314.

JAMES A. REAGAN

Primary Examiner

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10 August 2006

JAMES A. REAGAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

